Taking the High Ground:

Personal safety during a flood

IT'S UP TO YOU!

- JBLM and the surrounding areas have great resources in regard to firefighting and rescue personnel, in addition to the experienced staff of soldiers manning the Emergency Operations Center. But these things only offer a certain measure of protection from the random chaos of a serious flash flood event. The bulk of the work for keeping yourself and your family safe comes down to you.

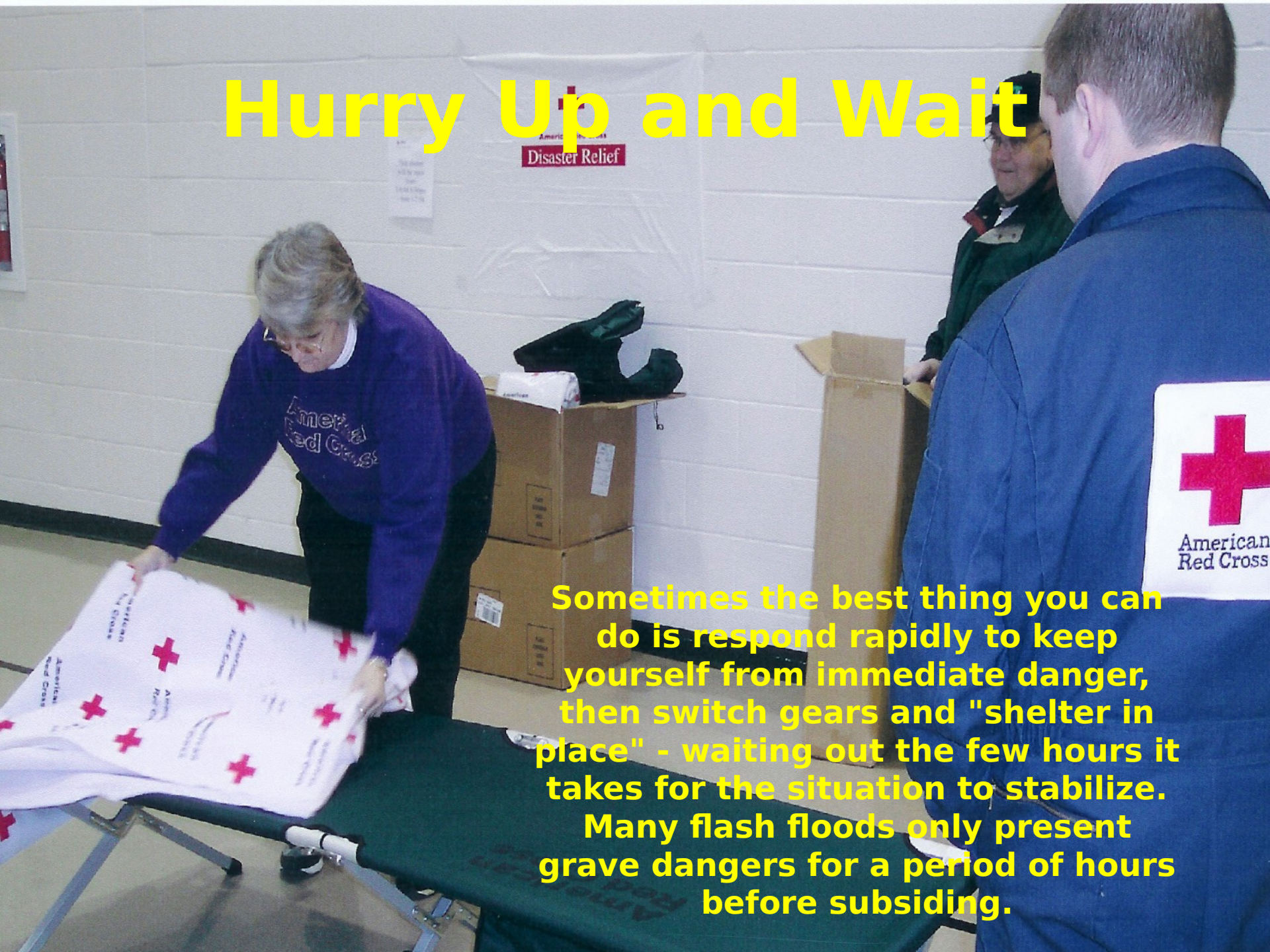
Learn the Land

The first, most general, thing you can do is to get to know your local landscape. Find out where the local streams and drainages are and where the roads you drive the most intersect these potentially dangerous areas.

Plan Ahead

Another thing you can do is to be mentally prepared for a rapid onset event. Make no mistake about it. A large rainfall hitting an urban area can turn it into a "war zone" and you don't know how bad it's going to get once it starts. There are always complicating factors and every rescue effort draws precious resources from a very limited supply.

Hurry Up and Wait



Sometimes the best thing you can do is respond rapidly to keep yourself from immediate danger, then switch gears and "shelter in place" - waiting out the few hours it takes for the situation to stabilize. Many flash floods only present grave dangers for a period of hours before subsiding.

Don’t Panic!

- Resist the normal urge to rush home immediately during a heavy rainfall event. Sometimes getting to high ground and staying put for a while is a safer alternative for you and local rescue personnel.

Coffin on Wheels

- The majority of flood-related deaths are caused by people attempting to drive through moving water. This interactive segment explains the most common ways people die in these situations.

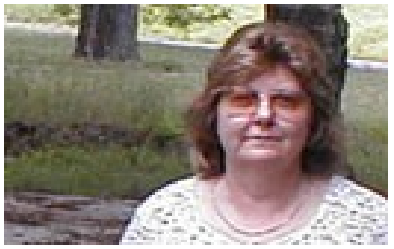
http://www.floodsafety.com/media/interactives/life/index.htm

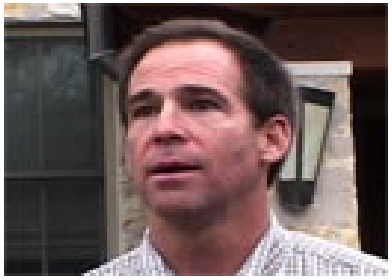
Most cars will float (and be swept away) in 18-24 inches of moving water. Trucks and SUVs are not much better with only 6-12 more inches of clearance. Creeks and rivers can rise very rapidly and the road bottom can also wash away making the water much deeper than it appears.

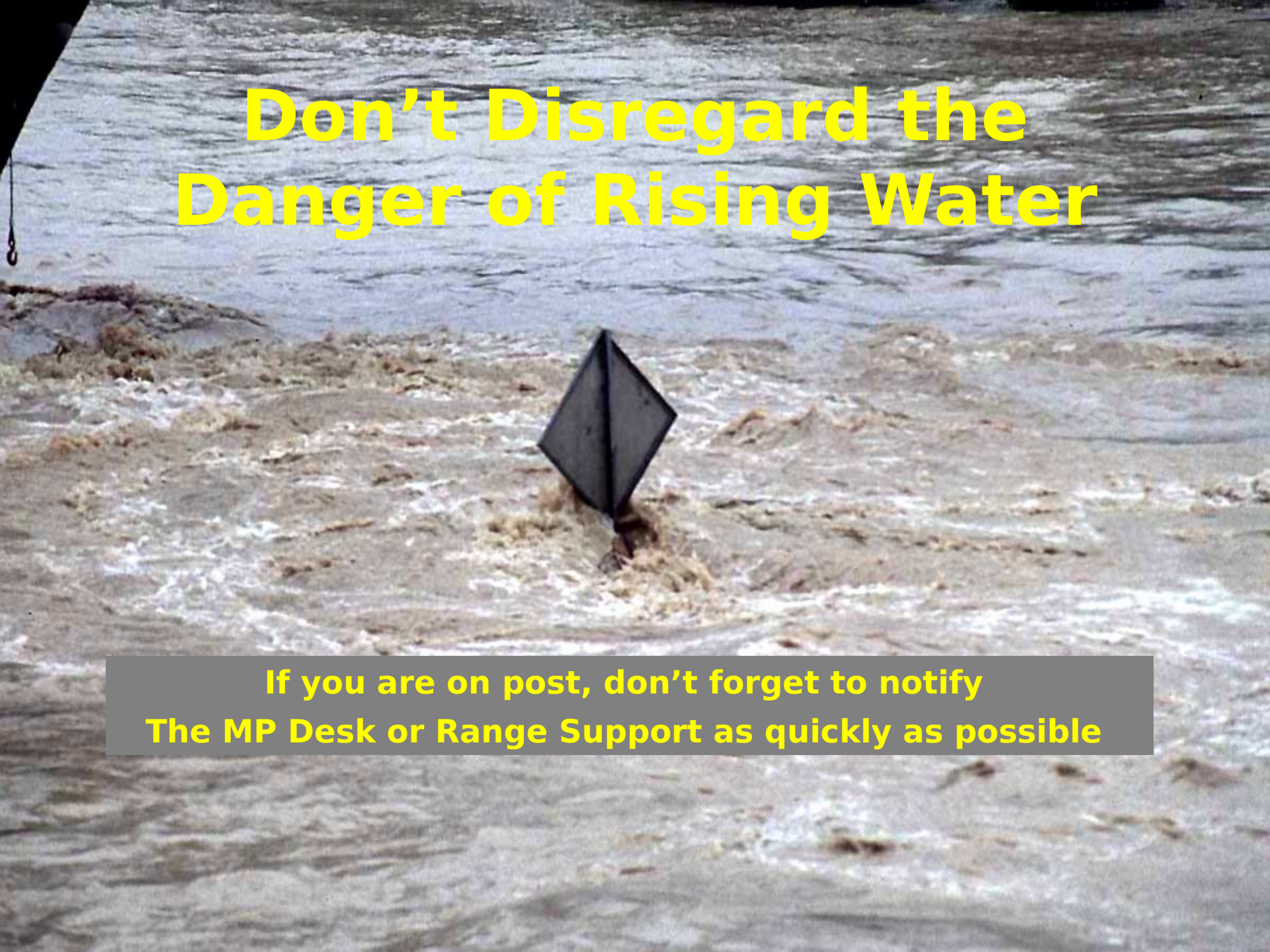
Testimonials

- Use the link below to listen to harrowing stories of rising floodwaters as told by the people who lived them.

- http://www.floodsafety.com/media/gallery/video/index.htm






Don’t Disregard the
Danger of Rising Water
If you are on post, don’t forget to notify
The MP Desk or Range Support as quickly as possible

…but there are always the few who observe, reason, and take precautions, and thus escape the flood – William Shakespeare

Cow rescue – Flint River Flood
near Albany, GA - 1925